

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 290825Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 933

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6023

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CY

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS VISIT TO PRC

SUMMARY: CYPRIOTS FOUND CHOU IN FULL CHARGE, WERE UNIMPRESSED BY TENG HSIAOSPING BUT STRONGLY IMPRESSED BY WANG HUNG-WEN. GROUP REPORTED CHINESE EXPECT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THAILAND AND SINGAPORE FAIRLY SOON WITH PHILIPPINES COMING ON LATER. CYPRIOTS ALSO COMMENTED UPON GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN CHINA. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AND PARTY WERE IN HONG KONG OVERNIGHT MAY 24 ON THEIR WAY FROM CHINA ENROUTE TO THAILAND AND PROVIDED SOME SCATTERED OBSERVATIONS.

2. ON PRC LEADERS: THEY FOUND MAO FRIENDLY AND WILLING TO
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TALK, ALTHOUGH RATHER SLOW IN SPEECH AND REACTIONS. IN FACT

ARCHBISHOP COMMENTED THAT IT WAS GOOD THING MAO DID NOT APPEAR IN PUBLIC BECAUSE HE WAS "VERY DULL." ALTHOUGH ENTIRE CYPRIOT DELEGATION MET MAO, ONLY ARCHBISHOP REMAINED FOR TALK WHICH MAKARIOS DID NOT DESCRIBE. CYPRIOTS SAID THAT CHOU EN-LAI APPEARED VERY MUCH IN CHARGE AT MEETINGS HE ATTENDED AND CHINESE MADE SPECIAL POINT OF DETAILING THE NUMBER OF HOURS HE WOULD HAVE HAD TO SPEND IN GREETING VISITORS IF HE HAD NOT CUT DOWN ON CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF HIS JOB. INTERESTINGLY, THEY WERE NOT IMPRESSED WITH TENG HSIAO-PING, ALTHOUGH TENG HAD ATTENDED THEIR MAIN MEETINGS AND HAD HOSTED THE CHINESE BANQUET. APPARENTLY NO ONE QUITE EXPLAINED WHO TENG WAS, NOR INDICATED ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO HIS PRESENCE. HOWEVER, BOTH MAKARIOS AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOFIDES WERE IMPRESSED WITH WANG HUNG-WEN WHO THEY SAID HAD TALKED A GREAT DEAL IN A DIRECT AND INTELLIGENT MANNER, EVIDENTLY DESCRIBING SOME OF CHINA'S INTERNAL POLICIES. THEY ADDED THAT OTHER CHINESE HAD GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO PRAISE WANG AND EMPHASIZE HIS PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PROMISE TO EXTENT THAT CYPRIOTS ASSUME HE WILL BE MAO'S SUCCESSOR. CHIANG CHING WAS HOSTESS AT TEA PRECEDING THE BANQUET, AND THEY FOUND HER VIGOROUS AND VERY MUCH A POLITICAL LEADER. AGAIN OTHER CHINESE STRESSED HER IMPORTANCE.

3. ON PRC FOREIGN POLICY: AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, THE CHINESE CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE SOVIET UNION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE ARCHBISHOP NOTED THAT THEY SEEMED "OBSESSED BY THE SOVIETS." OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA WAS ANNOUNCED WHILE GROUP WAS IN PRC AND THEY WERE INFORMED THAT CHINESE WERE EXPECTING TO MOVE SIMILARLY WITH THAILAND AND SINGAPORE FAIRLY QUICKLY, BUT NOT AS SOON WITH THE PHILIPPINES. CHINESE DID NOT EXPLAIN OR ELABORATE. CYPRIOTS SAID CHINESE DID NOT CRITICIZE THE U.S. AND IN FACT HARDLY MENTIONED US.

4. ON ATMOSPHERE: THE ARCHBISHOP WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE FRIENDLY RECEPTION HE RECEIVED EVERYWHERE IN CHINA. SEVERAL CROWDS WERE ESTIMATED AS BEING "MUCH LARGER THAN THE ENTIRE GREEK CYPRIOT POPULATION" AND HE ADDED THAT DESPITE ENORMOUS DIFFERENCES IN POPULATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, MAO MADE HIM FEEL AS AN EQUAL. THE CHINESE POINTED OUT THAT MAO HAD RECEIVED ENTIRE GROUP AT MAKARIOS'S REQUEST - WHICH WAS
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ALLEGEDLY FIRST TIME HE HAD DONE THIS AND CHIANG CHING'S HOSTING TEA WAS ALSO PORTRAYED AS A FIRST. ONLY NEGATIVE IMPRESSION FORMED BY THE HIGHLY INDIVIDUALISTIC GREEKS WAS OF THE OVERWHELMING DRABNESS AND UNIFORMITY THROUGHOUT CHINA, ALTHOUGH SHANGHAI SEEMED "RELAXED AND FRIENDLY." ARCHBISHOP SAID HE WAS DEPRESSED BY THE HEAVY POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN BEGINNING AT AGE THREE. THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ONLY ONE MILD CONTRETEMPS DURING VISIT WHICH OCCURED WHEN ARCH-

BISHOP ASKED HOW OLD CHINESE CIVILIZATION WAS AND ON BEING TOLD,
COMMENTED THAT OF COURSE GREEK CIVILIZATION WAS "MUCH OLDER
THAN THAT."

ARCHBISHOP SAID THAT THE CHINESE SEEMED SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AND
DISCONCERTED BY HIS STATING "THIS HISTORICAL FACT." (COMMENT:
ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THE CURRENT MOVEMENT IS THAT LIN PIAO
IS ALSO BEING CRITICIZED FOR LAUDING GRAECO ROMAN CIVILIZATION
AND THIS MAY HAVE HEIGHTENED CHINESE REACTION.")
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